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ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 200725Z JAN 06
FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
TO MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORP 0027

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 MAPUTO 000094

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MCC FOR SGAULL
AF/S FOR HTREGER

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [KMCA](#) [EAID](#) [ECON](#) [OVIP](#) [AFIN](#) [OTRA](#) [MZ](#)
SUBJ: COUNTRY CLEARANCE GRANTED FOR MILLENNIUM
CHALLENGE CORPORATION (MCC) VISIT TO TRAVEL TO
MOZAMBIQUE

REF: MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORP 000008

11. Embassy Maputo welcomes and grants country
clearance for MCC staff to travel to Mozambique on the
following dates to facilitate the development of the
program design of the Government of Mozambique's (GOM)
proposal.

Beverly Watson, Associate Country Director
Arrival: 23 January 2006
Departure: 10 February 2006

Jonathan Saiger, Director, Infrastructure
Arrival: 23 January 2006
Departure: 03 February 2006

Paul Watkins, Project Manager/COTR
Arrival: 23 January 2006
Departure: 03 February 2006

Sinnammal Souppaya, Contracting Officer
Arrival: 23 January 2006
Departure: 28 January 2006

Timothy Grosser, Director of Agriculture
Arrival: 08 February 2006
Departure: 22 February 2006

Cassia Carvalho-Pacheco, Associate Country Director
Arrival: 01 February 2006
Departure: 10 February 2006

Stuart Kerr, Director, Legal & Regulatory
Arrival: 30 January 2006
Departure: 11 February 2006

Thomas Campbell, Director, Financial Development
Arrival: 01 February 2006
Departure: 17 February 2006

Delbert Fitchett, Economist Consultant
Arrival: 03 February 2006
Departure: 17 February 2006

Emily Andrews, Director, Monitoring & Evaluation
Arrival: 05 February 2006
Departure: 18 February 2006

Celeste Tarricone, Program Officer
Arrival: 05 February 2006
Departure: 16 February 2006

Andrew Warner, Senior Economist
Arrival: 09 February 2006
Departure: 18 February 2006

Stephen Gaull, Country Director
Arrival: 09 February 2006
Departure: 17 February 2006

Maria Claudia Pachon, Program Officer
Arrival: 09 February 2006
Departure: 17 February 2006

Jonathan Saiger, Director, Infrastructure
Arrival: 12 February 2006
Departure: 17 February 2006

Elizabete Cordaro, Procurement Advisor
Arrival: 05 March 2006
Departure: 10 March 2006

Loren Ambinder, Assistant General Counsel -
International Operations
Arrival: 05 March 2006
Departure: 15 March 2006

David Gentry, Consultant
Arrival: 05 March 2006
Departure: 15 March 2006

Beverly Watson, Associate Country Director
Arrival: 05 March 2006
Departure: 10 March 2006

Please advise as soon as possible regarding any
schedule or itinerary changes; refer to para 8
regarding visa requirements.

MAPUTO 00000094 002 OF 003

¶2. Control Officer:

John Wysham, Chief Econ/Commercial Officer at the
Embassy, will be control officer. He can be contacted
at:

-- Office telephone: (258) 2149-27-97, ext.3425
-- Office fax: (258) 2149-35-74
-- Cellular: (258) 82-315-7170

¶3. Hotel Reservations:

Post has made hotel reservations at the Hotel Holiday Inn.
The rate for a single room is USD\$120.00, which includes a
breakfast buffet. Maputo per diem is currently USD\$242.00
(lodging USD\$185 and meals/incidentals USD\$57). The hotel
accepts U.S. Dollars or South African Rand; Diners Club,
VISA, MasterCard, or American Express credit cards for
payment of hotel bills.

The hotel can be contacted at:

- Telephone: (258) 21 49-50-50
-- Fax: (258) 21 49-77-00
-- E-Mail himaputo@southernsun.co.mz

Reservation Policy: Hotels charge for no-shows, and most
will debit one day's room rate for no-shows and reservations
canceled with less than twenty-four hours' notice prior to
arrival. Therefore, advance planning and prompt notification
of changes well in advance of the twenty-four hour limit are
necessary otherwise such charges will be assessed to the
intended traveler. Please contact your control officer
promptly with details of any changes.

¶4. Briefing by RSO on Security Situation: Please see
para 9 below. Foreigners have been crime targets
recently. TDY visitors staying longer than two days
must come to the Embassy for a security briefing from
the Regional Security Office shortly after arrival.

Guidance will include helpful do's and don'ts about walking around Maputo, dangerous areas in the city, use of taxis, etc.

¶5. Medical Services: Maputo has limited medical facilities. Visitors will have to be medevaced in the event of a major injury or illness. In the past, we have had visitors nearly die because details of their medevac insurance were not readily available. Post is therefore very strict in not granting country clearance unless we are assured that the traveler is adequately covered if a medevac is required.

Post has been provided the required medevac Information.

¶6. Consular Registration: All TDY visitors spending more than two work days in Maputo are required to register with the Consular Section in the Chancery to ensure that the Mission has current emergency contact information for each visitor.

¶7. Financial Matters: With the exception of the main hotels in Maputo, Mozambique is essentially a cash economy. Credit cards are of limited utility. Vendors will accept U.S. dollars (or South African rand) in lieu of the local currency, the metical. For a day trip to Maputo, we recommend visitors bring with them USD 100 in cash for spending money. Dollars can be exchanged at any bank or currency exchange facility. Embassy Maputo recommends against the use of travelers' checks, as transaction charges are uniformly high. Please note that Embassy Maputo will need fiscal data in the event that extensive services or goods are required during the visit. There are no currency import/export restrictions in affect at this time. The American Express credit card is accepted by Mozambican Airlines (LAM).

Please note that charge limits are in effect on most credit card transactions, and hotel bills need to be settled every few days.

¶8. Visas: Visas are required for entry into Mozambique, and Embassy Maputo urges travelers to have them prior to traveling. Travelers arriving from a country without a Mozambican embassy can get visas at the airport or land border entry points for USD 20 or 300,000 meticaïs. Those arriving from a country with a

MAPUTO 00000094 003 OF 003

Mozambican embassy can obtain visas at the airport or land border entry points for USD 25. Diplomatic visitors without visas will have their passports held pending processing of a visa, which requires Embassy Maputo to process a diplomatic note.

¶9. Security/Threat Assessment: The biggest threat facing U.S. citizens visiting Mozambique is crime. The State Department has designated Mozambique a critical-threat post for crime. Street crime and vehicle hijackings are common and can be violent. Visitors must be vigilant when out in public areas, and should not display jewelry or other items of high value. Visitors should avoid carrying backpacks or purses, as these can draw unwanted attention of would-be muggers. Isolated areas, such as along the Marginal (the area along the sea), should be avoided as joggers and pedestrians have been mugged frequently, even during daylight hours.

There are no known terrorist groups active in Mozambique and no current indications that U.S. citizens are being targeted by terrorist organizations.

The police are poorly paid, poorly equipped, and lack the professionalism that U.S. citizens are accustomed

to in the United States. Visitors requiring emergency assistance should not rely on local emergency services, but should contact the Marine Security Guard at Post One at 21-49-07-23. Mozambican law requires that all persons carry an identity document, such as a passport, when out in public, and produce it if requested by police. A copy of passport identity and visa pages is acceptable. There are certain areas in the city of Maputo where pedestrian traffic is prohibited, e.g., in front of the presidential offices located north of the Hotel Polana on the seaside of Avenida Julius Nyerere.

Overland travel after dark is extremely dangerous due to poor road conditions, lack of emergency services, and the increased potential for vehicle highjacking. Official Americans serving in Mozambique are prohibited from overland travel outside city limits during the hours of darkness.

TDY visitors spending more than two work days in Mozambique must schedule a security briefing with the Regional Security Officer.

¶10. Airport Departure Tax: There is an airport departure tax, payable only in cash in U.S. dollars or in meticaïs, of USD 10 or its equivalent for long-distance international flights and USD 10 or its equivalent for regional flights (those within Southern Africa). A domestic departure tax of 55,000 meticaïs is levied.

¶11. Airline Reservations: Changing airline tickets after arriving in Maputo is often difficult. Passenger reservations on all airlines can be changed through the national airline and/or travel agents in South Africa, but reissuing tickets have proven difficult. Travelers should be sure to confirm onward flight reservations.

¶12. Health: Travelers are advised that chloroquine-resistant malaria is present in Mozambique. The most recent guidance from the Department of State Medical Office recommends weekly use of mefloquine as the drug of choice for malaria prophylaxis in chloroquine-resistant areas. Mefloquine must be started one to two weeks before arriving at post. Daily doxycycline is an alternative regimen. Doxycycline must be started three days before arriving at post. Both malaria prophylaxis medications must be continued for four weeks after departing post.

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